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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
Jack Zeyu SONG et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Application No.: Unassigned ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Filed: March 15, 2001 )  
For: LING AGGREGATION )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1-7 as follows.

1. (Amended) Method to optimise route selection in a communication system comprising branch points (A-F) of transmission links (L1-L9), the quality of each link being represented by topology parameters (TM, TA) divided into categories, whereby two of the branch points (B, E) have a set of multiple parallel links (L1, L2, L3) in-between, said method comprising the following steps:
- selecting among the set of parallel links (L1, L2, L3), the links having the most favourable topology parameter (TM, TA), each category;
  - aggregating the set of parallel links into an abstract link (SUPER) between the two branch points (B, E), the abstract link (SUPER) being represented by each categories most favourable topology parameter (TM, TA).